

I would like to thank co- chairs, Representative Lemar, Senator Haskell, vice chairs - Senator Cassano and Representative Sims and ranking members, Representative Carney and Senator Somers for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB-4 - an act concerning the Connecticut clean air act.

Thank you all for taking the time to accept and read my testimony for this bill. We as residents of this great state appreciate the consideration you have for our concerns, and hope you look at this bill with the same hope and optimism as we do.

Speaking with friends and family ad nauseum on the subject, I have found common consensus on the need to decrease air and noise pollution throughout cities and town centers. This consensus reluctantly understands cars as a large part of the problem, but doesn't see any solution in a car-centric world. Car ownership has been embedded into American culture since the 1950s, and with it, the sole focus of transportation in America. This culture has provided the "independence" car companies have marketed, but subsidies for roads and cars throughout the years have made them consistently high profits.

However, there is a growing contingency of Americans who see the solution to our traffic and pollution problems: protected bike infrastructure and robust/frequent mass transportation systems. 60% of vehicle trips are under 6 miles which could easily be replaced with e-bikes. Not only do e-bikes reduce GHG emissions and noise pollution, they allow riders to connect more with their cities and towns. The ability to provide a rebate for a transportation mode that will induce exercise and commute while strengthening our connection to the places we call home is extremely valuable.

As a resident of New Haven, I hope one day I will not need a car, and be able to ride an affordable e-bike safely downtown to my favorite shops and restaurants. With this bill, the state has the ability to create a new economic revitalisation path: bikeable and walkable cities and towns that allow people from all income levels to access jobs and commercial areas without the need to drive a car. Our travel and transportation must shift away from dangerous speeds and single occupancy. Connecticut can be a leader on equitable, safe, and clean transportation with this bill. Thank you for your time, and hopefully see you in the bike lane!

Sincerely,

Liam Daley

